

In re Application of: Doron TAM et al
Serial No.: 10/580,289
Filed: May 24, 2006
Office Action Mailing Date: April 23, 2008

Examiner: Randall Jr., Kelvin L
Group Art Unit: 4174
Attorney Docket: 66599-0005
Amendment 20 October 2008

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A device for dispensing a bag from a stack of bags, the device comprising:

a plate having mounted on a frame, said plate defining a planar bag-supporting surface and an opposite planar surface;

a rotatable shaft coupled to said frame;

at least one roller non-rotatably affixed to said shaft and arranged to engage a bag of the stack of bags nearest said planar bag-supporting surface; means for rotating said shaft whereby said nearest bag is shifted over said at least one roller; and

means for automatically stopping rotation of said shaft after a said nearest single bag has been dispensed,

wherein the stack of bags is held against ~~one side of~~ said planar bag-supporting surface plate, and said single nearest bag is dispensed to an said opposite planar surface side of said plate, said plate being disposed between said dispensed nearest bag and the stack of bags.

2. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said rotatable shaft is mounted on said frame and further comprising a bag retaining element coupled to said plate for pressing the stack of bags against said at least one roller.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said means for automatically stopping includes a dispensed bag detector adapted to stop rotation of said shaft in response to detection of a dispensed bag.

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5. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said rotating means includes:

a motor; and

a transmission coupling said motor to said rotatable shaft such that said motor drives said shaft.

6. (Previously presented) The device of claim 5, wherein said means for stopping includes a dispensed bag detector coupled to said motor and adapted to stop rotation of said motor in response to detection of a dispensed bag.

7. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said means for rotating includes manual means for rotating said shaft.

8. (Original) The device according to claim 7, wherein said manual means is a handle.

9. (Original) The device of claim 2, further comprising:

a second rotatable shaft mounted parallel to said rotatable shaft on an extension of said frame;

at least one roller non-rotatably affixed to said second shaft;

wherein each roller on said rotatable shaft is coupled to a roller on said second shaft, whereby rotation of said rotatable shaft causes concomitant rotation of said second shaft.

10. (Original) The device according to claim 2, wherein said bag retaining element includes a bag-retaining bar for engaging and retaining said stack of bags against said at least one roller before and during dispensing.

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11. (Original) The device according to claim 10, wherein said bag-retaining bar is coupled to an arm pivotally coupled to said plate.

12. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a housing in which the device is mounted, said housing including an opening adjacent said opposite side of the plate for removal of a dispensed bag.

13. (Original) The device of claim 12, further comprising a display on the outside of the housing.

14. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein said display includes a frame.

15. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein said display includes a light box.

16. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein said display includes an electronic display coupled to a controller.

17. (Original) The device of claim 16, wherein said controller is coupled to a central store computer.

18. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a controller for controlling said device, and an electronic connection for coupling said controller to a cash register for communication therewith.

19. (Original) The device according to claim 2, further comprising an elongate guide mounted adjacent said rollers to guide dispensed bags away from the rollers.

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20. (Currently amended) A method for dispensing a bag from a stack of bags, the method comprising:

holding a stack of bags against at least one roller non-rotatably affixed to a rotatable shaft coupled to a plate having mounted on a frame and defining a planar bag-supporting surface and an opposite planar surface;

dispensing one bag from said stack of bags nearest said planar bag-supporting surface to an said opposite side planar surface of said plate ~~from said stack of bags~~ by rotating said rotatable shaft; and

automatically stopping rotation of said shaft after dispensing ~~a single~~ said nearest one bag.

21. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein said step of automatically stopping includes detecting presence of a dispensed bag adjacent a dispensed bag detector; and stopping rotation of said shaft in response thereto.

22. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 20, ~~further comprising; wherein the rotatable shaft is drivingly coupled to a motor, and the step of rotating said rotatable shaft comprises actuating said motor, the method further comprising~~

~~drivingly coupling a motor to said rotatable shaft, such that actuation of said motor causes said rotatable shaft to rotate; and~~

causing said ~~plurality~~ at least one of roller[s]] to engage an outermost one bag in said stack of bags nearest said planar bag-supporting surface, such that rotation of said rotatable shaft causes said at least one roller[s]] to remove said outermost nearest bag from said stack of bags.

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23. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein said step of automatically stopping includes automatically stopping said motor in response to dispensing of said nearest one a single bag from the said stack of bags.

24. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein said ~~step of affixing further includes:~~ at least one roller is non-rotatably affixed to a second rotatable shaft, said second shaft is mounted parallel to said rotatable shaft, and said at least one roller on said rotatable shaft is coupled

~~non-rotatably affixing a second plurality of rollers to a second rotatable shaft, mounting said second shaft parallel to said rotatable shaft; and~~

~~coupling each roller on said rotatable shaft to a~~ said at least one roller on said second shaft, whereby rotation of said rotatable shaft causes concomitant rotation of said second shaft.

25. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising drivingly coupling a manual rotation means to said rotatable shaft, such that actuation of said manual rotation means rotates said shaft.